

15 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Robert M. Gates

SUBJECT : [] Package on Community Product
Evaluation

1. In some ways the papers prepared on Community product evaluation by [] Lehman touch importantly on our discussion this morning about the Community role in production generally. I am in agreement with Frank's comment on 5 October that to proceed along the lines John McMahon has set forth will confine the Intelligence Community Staff strictly to a resource and collection role and cut it out of the important production area all together. Still speaking on a general plane, my inclination is that Community efforts across the board should come under the purview of the Community structure, which, of course, reports to you and the DDCI. Therefore, in the abstract I would favor the functions contemplated for the Interagency Production Council, the Senior Review Panel, and the NIC all being organized administratively within the IC Staff with the admittedly awkward bureaucratic arrangement that the Chairman of NIC and the Chairman of the Evaluation Board report directly to the DCI/DDCI.

2. More specifically, I am in agreement with the recommendations in the attached package that the Senior Review Panel assume a formal Community role and that it be assigned administratively to the IC Staff. I would view it as a creature both of the DCI and of the NFIB and, accordingly, I would attach it administratively to Walt Elder's office for bureaucratic support but have its leader report directly to the DCI/DDCI. I agree with Frank that the Panel should move [] Politically, it will have no credibility if it continues to reside at CIA because it will be perceived as being an effort by CIA and the Director of CIA to get in the business of evaluating other agencies' products. It will be difficult enough to elicit their cooperation for the Panel in an acknowledged Community role; I think it will be well nigh impossible to get such cooperation if they remain here. (Dick Lehman's point about them being separated physically from at least some body of analysts is well taken; I just believe the price is too high.)

3. I admit my motives are not pure. I want the SRP out of NFAC so that I can appoint an evaluation panel or group that is much more aggressive, energetic, closer in age and experience to the analysts and managers themselves, and ^{more} innovative than the present members of the Panel. For this reason, I also would hope to negotiate some compromise on how many slots would be transferred to the IC Staff--so as not to cripple my own plan for an NFAC board through the lack of supergrade slots.

4. I can see no reason why the transmogrification of the SRP to a Community role cannot be effected reasonably promptly after the first of the year. The way it fits into the rest of the IC Staff structure relating to production can be dealt with at a time when we have studied and sorted that out better.

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Robert M. Gates